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TAGS: [KACT](#) [PARM](#) [START](#) [JCIC](#) [INF](#) [US](#) [RS](#) [UP](#) [BO](#) [KZ](#)

SUBJECT: JCIC-XXXIII: (U) BELARUSIAN CLOSING STATEMENT,  
NOVEMBER 21, 2008

Classified By: Jerry A. Taylor, United States Representative  
to the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission.  
Reasons: 1.5(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This is JCIC-XXXIII-026.

[1](#)2. (U) At Paragraph 3 below is the official translation of  
the Belarusian Statement that was delivered at the Closing  
Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-third Session of the START  
Treaty's Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission (JCIC),  
held at the U.S. Mission on November 21, 2008.

[1](#)3. (S) Begin text:

Official Translation

Statement

by the Delegation of the Republic of Belarus  
at the Closing Plenary Meeting of the 33rd Session  
of the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission

Geneva

November 21, 2008

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,

Esteemed Representatives and members of the delegations  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the  
United States of America, and Ukraine.

Today we are concluding JCIC-XXXIII and would like to  
note in this regard the productive work and active  
participation of all the Parties during this session, which  
promoted progress in a number of areas.

In particular, we can note certain progress toward  
removing concern over the Minuteman III reentry vehicle. The  
legal framework of an agreement was outlined, which, in the  
event the Treaty expires, would provide a procedure for  
terminating continuous monitoring at Votkinsk, as well as a  
procedure for removing the relevant U.S. property. This

issue affects Belarusian interests due to the planned transit of this property across Belarusian territory. Overall, we are satisfied with the work done at the expert level and are prepared to continue developing a legal basis during the intersessional period. During this session information was presented by the Ukrainian side and preliminarily discussed regarding its intention to move types of ICBMs that have been completely eliminated to date into the category of former types of ICBMs. During the intersessional period the Belarusian side will determine its position on this issue.

We express the hope that in the intersessional period a substantive dialogue will continue, with the aim of removing the remaining concerns related to implementing Treaty provisions.

Mr. Chairman,

During this session we also considered one other important question--the future of the START Treaty. Not only did the Parties fulfill the requirement of paragraph 2 of Article XVII of the Treaty, but they also voiced their concerns on this issue. We are convinced that it is important not to allow a legal vacuum to be created in strategic offensive arms control after December 2009. Our view is that in the coming year we must decide what path we will take: either we decide to extend the Treaty or we work out a new accord on strategic offensive arms.

We think that in considering the question of working out a new Treaty it is important to take into account the main elements on which the START Treaty is based: reduction of strategic offensive arms; a system of control and verification; and security guarantees to non-nuclear states that acceded to the START Treaty through the Lisbon Protocol.

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all the Delegations for their cooperation and to thank individually the interpreters and translators for their contribution to the work of the Commission.

We wish all a safe return home and productive work in the intersessional period.

End text.

14. (U) Taylor sends.  
TICHENOR

NNNN

End Cable Text